

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4262
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 06789

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, CA, SF, TZ
SUBJECT: CANADIAN VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. WE REALIZE USUN AND AMBASSADOR BOWDLER ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEIR CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN MATTERS, BUT WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS BY H. CARTER, DIRECTOR OF ANGLOPHONE AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND FORMER CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, MAY BE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

2. NAMIBIA. EXPERIENCE OF PAST TWO MONTHS DEMONSTRATES AGAIN THAT SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT USUALLY KEEPS ITS WORD IF IT IS PINNED DOWN IN WRITING, BUT IF THERE ARE ANY LOOSE ENDS, AS THERE ARE REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF ITS FORCES FROM NAMIBIA AND APPOINTMENT OF AG, VORSTER AND COMPANY EITHER WILFULLY OR GENUINELY MISINTERPRET UNDERSTANDINGS. STILL, SAG HAS BEEN REMARKABLY FORTHCOMING IN TALKS WITH CONTACT GROUP, PARTICULARLY IN AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO UN-SUPERVISED ELECTIONS. NEXT KEY EVENT WILL BE MEETING BETWEEN SWAPO AND MEMBERS OF CONTACT GROUP, AND CARTER BELIEVES THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM. ONE
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MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT EXTERNAL WING OF SWAPO SEEMS TO BE OUT OF TOUCH WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NAMIBIA, ESPECIALLY IN ITS ANALYSIS OF ITS PROSPECTS FOR WINNING A FREE ELECTION.

3. NYERERE VISIT. NYERERE AUGUST 1-3 SAY IN OTTAWA IS ESSENTIALLY A BY-PRODUCT OF HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. HE IS

COMING NOT ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT, BUT AS A GUEST OF TRUDEAU, AND THUS DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY IN TALKS HERE. NYERERE WILL SPEND MOST OF AUGUST 2 IN PRIVATE TETE-A-TETE WITH TRUDEAU AT LATTER'S COTTAGE AT HARRINGTON LAKE, JUST OUTSIDE OTTAWA. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EXPECTS THAT SOUTHERN AFRICAN

ISSUES WILL BE MAJOR FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS AND THAT TRUDEAU WILL SEEK TO PERSUADE NYERERE TO TAKE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS REGARDING NAMIBIA. CANADIAN BILATERAL AID TO TANZANIA WILL ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY BE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT POSITION TRUDEAU WILL TAKE IF NYERERE RAISES QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN A UN FORCE FOR NAMIBIA.

4. RHODESIA. IN CARTER'S VIEW, OUTLOOK IS TOTALLY BLEAK. NKOMO NOW SEEMS TO BE IN STRONGER POSITION THAN MUGABE, AND THERE IS NO HOPE OF BRIDGING GAP BETWEEN THEM ON ONE HAND AND SMITH ON OTHER SIDE. ANY "INTERNAL SOLUTION" WILL LEAD NOWHERE. ENDERS

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